

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

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INFO USDA/WASHDC

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PASS: USDA FOR WITCHER AND FRASER, FAS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR OECD

SUBJECT: MEETING OF WORKING PARTY NO. 1 (AGRICULTURAL
POLICIES) OF COMMITTEE FOR AGRICULTURE, JULY 5-7,1976

REF: OECD PARIS 20043

1. SUMMARY. WP SPENT HALF OF TIME ON DETAILED EXAMINATION OF PART-TIME FARMING IN US, NORWAY, GERMANY AND JAPAN. HALF-DAY DISCUSSION OF WORLD STUDY WAS ANTI-CLIMACTIC IN ABSENCE OF CHAIRMAN POPP WHO HAD PLACED THIS ITEM ON AGENDA. WP APPROVED A HYBRID STUDY ON PERI-URBAN AGRICULTURE AND ON LAND USE POLICIES AND REGIONAL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT. PROJECT ON ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL INDICATORS STRONGLY ENDORSED. LATE NOVEMBER ENVISAGED AS TIME FOR NEXT MEETING. CORRECTION OF REF-TEL: NEXT MEETING OF COMMITTEE FOR AGRICULTURE SCHEDULED SEPTEMBER 28-29 (NOT SEPT 29-30). END OF SUMMARY.

2. AGENDA ADOPTED (AGR/WP1/A(76)2). MEETING ALTERNATELY
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CHAired BY THE TWO VICE CHAIRMEN, LEGER AND YOSHII.

3. PART-TIME FARMING, UNITED STATES (AGR/WP1(76)4) WAS EXAMINED FOR OVER TWO HOURS. WP WAS MOST IMPRESSED BY THE EXTENT TO WHICH US PART-TIME FARMERS TEND TO MAKE USE OF LABOR SAVING MEASURES. ALSO SURPRISING WAS THE CONTINUING INCREASE IN THE PERCENTAGE WHICH PART-TIME FARMERS ARE OF ALL FARMERS. THE NORWEGIAN STUDY AGAIN BROUGHT OUT THAT COUNTRY'S STRONG AGRICULTURAL PROTECTIONISM PREVIOUSLY OBSERVED DURING THE EXAMINATION OF AGRICULTURAL POLICIES. THE GERMAN DELEGATION EMPHASIZED THE ROLE OF PART-TIME FARMERS IN FACILITATING THE EXIT FROM FARMING RATHER THAN AS A WAY OF LIFE. THE DISCUSSION OF PART-TIME FARMING IN JAPAN EXPLAINED THE EMPHASIS ON RICE AS A CROP BEST SUITED FOR PART-TIME FARMING.

4. "POLICY ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION" OF THE WORLD STUDY (AGR/WP1(76)8) AND THE HALF-DAY DISCUSSION BASED ON IT WAS REPETITIVE OF PREVIOUS DISCUSSIONS OF THE WORLD STUDY IN OTHER FORA, PARTICULARLY THE COMMITTEE FOR AGRICULTURE. IN THE ABSENCE OF CHAIRMAN POPP IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE TO SEEK RECONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSAL TO STUDY THE COST OF INCREASING AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION IN DIFFERENT OECD AREAS ALTHOUGH THERE WAS MUCH ORATORY ON ORIENTATION OF PRODUCTION. US DEL INVITED A CANDID INVESTIGATION OF THE INSTABILITY HYPOTHESIS PRESENTED IN THE WORLD STUDY. HE RECALLED THAT THAT STUDY REFERRED TO WORSENING INSTABILITY. THAT HYPOTHESIS SHOULD BE PROVED OR DISPROVED. TO REFER NOW TO "CONTINUING" INSTABILITY AS HAD BEEN DONE DURING DISCUSSION, SERVED NO ANALYTICAL PURPOSE.

5. SECRETARIAT PRESENTED STUDY ON PERI-URBAN AGRICULTURE

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AS OUTLINED IN AGR/WP1(76)9 AND LAND USE POLICIES AND REGIONAL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT AS OUTLINED IN AGR/WP1(76)10 AS MUTUALLY EXCLUSIVE WORK PROJECTS FOR NEXT 18 MONTHS. LINE PROJECT WOULD HAVE TO BE CONCLUDED END OF 1977. SEVERAL DELS, INCLUDING US, COMPLAINED THAT LATE SUBMISSION OF SECOND PROJECT OUTLINE AND ITS OVERLAP WITH COMPLETED LAND USE STUDY PREVENTED CAREFUL EXAMINATION OF ALTERNATIVES. DESPITE CLEAR PREFERENCE FOR PERI-URBAN STUDY BY MOST DISCUSSANTS, WP FINALLY AGREED TO A HYBRID STUDY DIVIDED INTO A "GENERAL" PART DEALING WITH REGIONAL PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT, A PART DEALING WITH PERI-URBAN AGRICULTURE AND A THIRD PART SYNTHESIZING THE OTHER TWO.

6. WORK ON ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL INDICATORS, AS OUTLINED IN AGR/WP1(76)11, WAS CONSTRUCTIVELY DISCUSSED AND ENDORSED. THE GERMAN DEL RAISED MANY TECHNICAL POINTS WHICH WILL SERVE AS VALUABLE GUIDANCE FOR SECRETARIAT. NEXT MEETING OF WP TO DECIDE WHETHER AN EXPERT GROUP SHOULD BE CONVENED IN EARLY 1977.

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7. LATE NOVEMBER ENVISAGED FOR NEXT MEETING. EXACT DATE TO BE SETTLED WITH CHAIRMAN POPP. TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION (1) TOPICAL ANNUAL POLICY REVIEW, (2) DETAILED NOTE ON ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL INDICATORS, (3) PART-TIME FARMING IN AUSTRIA AND CANADA AND PERHAPS (4) NOTE SUBMITTED TO PARENT COMMITTEE BY THE GERMAN DEL (OECD PARIS 19074 OR DAA/1387).

8. NEXT MEETING OF COMMITTEE FOR AGRICULTURE SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER 28-29 (NOT SEPTEMBER 29-30 AS REPORTED IN REFTEL).

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